

Remarks

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the following remarks. For the reasons set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention is allowable over the cited references.

The Office Action dated October 19, 2000, indicated that the specification is objected to under § 112(1); claims 11-16 stand rejected under § 112(2); claims 11 and 13 are further objected to for lack of sufficient antecedent basis; and claims 1-17 stand rejected under § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Renteln* (U.S. Patent No. 5,664,987).

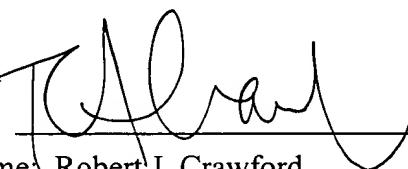
In response to the § 112 objection/rejection, the detailed description and FIG. 2 have been amended, claim 11 has been amended, and claim 13 has been canceled. Applicant respectfully requests that the § 112 objection and the § 112 rejection be withdrawn.

With respect to the § 102(b) rejection in view of *Renteln*, Applicant submits that *Renteln* fails to teach or suggest every limitation claimed in each pending claim of the present invention. Each of the claims is now directed to positioning the wafer carrier misaligned with respect to the pad as a function of the wafer being polished in the center-offset manner. Support for these limitations can be found at the top few lines of page 8 (including and apart from the amendment at page 8, line 3), and in FIG. 2, where the wafer carrier and wafer are shown offset from the center of the pad. *Renteln* fails to teach or suggest this aspect of the present invention.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that each of the claims has been patentably distinguished from the prior art. It is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and objections, along with a favorable response, are earnestly requested.

Should there be any remaining issues that could be readily addressed over the telephone, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at 651/686-6633.

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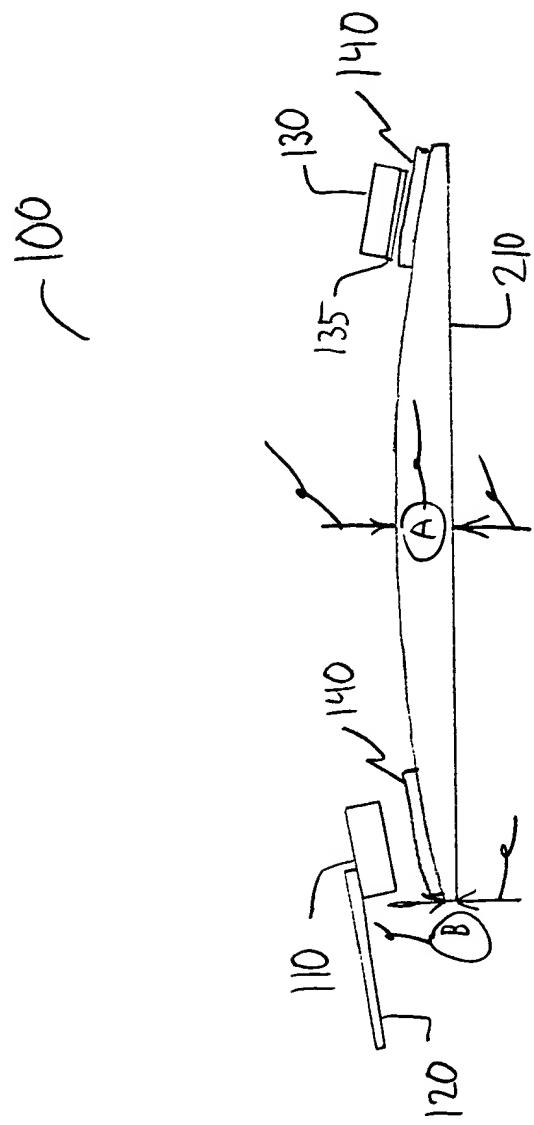


Fig. 2